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HOUSE RESOLUTION 199  
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to create a special House committee to examine the usage and effects of the drug Ritalin.

WHEREAS, the condition of hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder are being diagnosed at unprecedented levels by the medical profession, especially within the community of school-aged children; and

WHEREAS, the drug Ritalin is prescribed widely to treat and/or abate both hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder; and

WHEREAS, although several states have enacted laws relative to hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder as diagnosed in children, no state laws address the usage or effects of the drug Ritalin; and

WHEREAS, previous efforts by the Ninety-Ninth and One Hundredth General Assemblies to examine the usage and effects of the drug Ritalin and other amphetamines have enabled the leaders of this state to gain a clearer understanding of these important issues; however, the complexity of such issues require that they be further addressed; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should carefully consider and examine all issues that affect the public safety and welfare, and especially those issues that could potentially affect our children adversely; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that there is hereby created a special House committee to examine the usage and effects of the drug Ritalin and to study and determine the necessity of enacting statutory guidelines relative to the prescription and use of Ritalin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during the course of its deliberations, the special House committee shall hear testimony from health care officials to determine if hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder are being overdiagnosed by the medical community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special House committee shall be composed of five (5) members of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special House committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting, the members thereof shall elect a chair, vice-chair and such other officers as they deem necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special House committee shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly; provided, that such members shall be duly elected members of the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special House committee shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly no later than February 1, 2003, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.